

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 11 and 16 have been amended to more definitely define the invention and obviate the rejections. The present amendment is deemed not to introduce new matter. Claims 1-3, 5, 9-12 and 14-16 remain in the application.

Pursuant to the requirement for corrected drawings, corrected Figures 1 and 2 are submitted herewith. It is believed that this submission satisfies the requirements for corrected drawings.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1, 5 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 9-12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the term “unhindered”, and insert the correct term “hindered”, as suggested by the Examiner. In view of this amendment, it is believed that the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 9-11 have been amended to change the term “powder article” to “powder particle”. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify antecedent support, by insertion therein of the term “said” at the appropriate locations. Further, claim 11 has been amended to clarify the interrelationships of the components.

In addition, claims 3 and 16 have been rewritten in the manner suggested by the Examiner. In

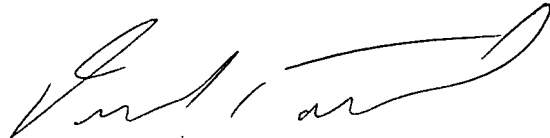
DOCKET NO. M&M-031-USA-PCT

view of the amendments mentioned above, it is believed that the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

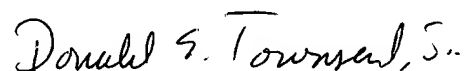
The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested. If there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed at the present time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend', written in a cursive style.

Donald E. Townsend
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

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